

# **CT CCC Meeting Highlights**

## **September 29, 2003**

### **Kent Town Hall**

#### **Introductions:**

All participants introduced themselves. Due to still being unable to engage Harry Manasewich's services, EPA is experimenting with having Angela Bonarrigo facilitate the meetings. Participants were encouraged to give any feedback on this approach to Bryan Olson.

#### **Updates:**

##### **EPA**

1 2 Mile Reach: Tim Conway reported that a dam has been installed just upstream of Elm Street and became operational in preparation for the next phase of work in the 1 2 Mile Reach. EPA is working around 300 feet below the dam where the dam makes conditions relatively dry, without heavy rain. To date, EPA has removed about 25,000 CY of contaminated sediments in about 11 months and has treated 78 million gallons of water. The project is still on schedule and EPA expects to reach Elm Street by Thanksgiving. A public meeting is scheduled for September 30<sup>th</sup> to discuss the work in the next reach. The meeting will be announced as soon as the location is confirmed.

Human Health Risk Assessment and Ecological Risk Assessment: Public meetings were held in June and July to present and discuss the Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) as well as the Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA). Public information meetings were held in Pittsfield and Lenox MA for the HHRA and the ERA respectively, and meetings were held in Kent CT for both the HHRA and the ERA.

Seven peer reviewers have been selected for the Human Health Risk Assessment and the list will be provided to the CCC. The Human Health Risk Assessment Panel will meet from November 18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> at Cranwell Resort. November 18<sup>th</sup> is the day the public can comment to the peer review panel. More information will be forthcoming on how to comment to the panel.

Nominations for the Ecological Risk Assessment peer review panel have closed and the panel has been chosen. The deadline for comments on the Ecological Risk Assessment has been extended to September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Tim listed the selector and the panelists names and proposed having MNG send, via email, the same level of detail to the CCC as was on the HHRA panel. The ERA Peer Review panel is scheduled for January 13 B 15, 2004 at Cranwell Resort.

#### **Additional Updates:**

Greenway: As part of the cleanup of the 1 2 Mile Reach, EPA is purchasing and turning over to the city properties to turn into a greenway. It is anticipated that by 2006 the entire 1 2 Mile Reach will be completed.

TSCA: EPA also announced that a stipulated penalty has been assessed against GE based on a Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) enforcement settlement reached earlier this year between EPA and GE. One pint of PCB oil was found in a piece of equipment in a building at the facility and the company was fined a penalty of \$1250.

#### **CT DEP:**

Susan Peterson updated the group on CT DEP activities related to the site.

CT DEP is reviewing EPA's reports on the project, in particular the ERA and HHRA. Susan also attended the HHRA and ERA meetings last summer and CT DEP is reviewing and submitting comments on both, as necessary.

CT DEP received the latest fish and benthic report monitoring for 2002. CT DEP is reviewing this most recent data submitted by GE under the Housatonic River CT DEP - GE Cooperative Agreement. This monitoring program ends in 2005 and CT DEP is looking into getting EPA to wrap future monitoring into the GE Consent Decree.

Susan also provided updates on other PCB-related issue B

DOT is constructing a new Stevenson Dam / Lake Zoar Bridge and may possibly disturb PCB sediments. DOT will have a public hearing on this in the future.

CT DEP has also made comments on the FERC DEIS - NGS Housatonic Hydropower Relicensing, including some comments on the PCB information contained in the DEIS which DEP felt was inaccurate.

#### **NRD Update:**

Susan Peterson also presented the NRD update and gave an outline of how the program will unfold:

Phase 1 is nearly completed and expected to be completed by October 28<sup>th</sup> meeting with the adoption of the Phase II Scope of Work.

Phase 2 is expected to begin in January 2004. This includes construction and adoption of the Restoration Plan, including projects selected for implementation. The public will have input into this phase.

Phase 3 is implementing the projects. This phase is still a few years out and includes adopting the restoration plan including selected projects. Projects have to meet NEPA requirements.

Phase 4, the final phase will include operating, monitoring, evaluating and maintaining the projects implemented under phase 3.

The next CT trustee sub council meeting is 10/28 in Kent, 7 p.m. with a public information meeting with trustee meeting afterwards.

#### **Questions and Remarks:**

Judy Herkimer proposed a tour to see the by-pass system.

Kim Herkimer asked how EPA cleans the bedrock and any giant fissure in the bedrock.

Judy Herkimer asked if any of the massive PCB plumes under the river reach down as far as the 1 2 Mile. Tim replied that a few do and EPA is watching them and taking necessary action. Judy wants clarity about PCB plumes traveling into the 1 2 Mile River.

Judy Herkimer raised a number of questions about the peer review process. Tim emphasized that EPA is not running the peer review process and both Tim and Angela encouraged her to speak directly of MNG.

Judy Herkimer expressed HEAL's frustration that the peer review process doesn't serve the public well and that there is no recourse for the public. In addition, Judy expressed her frustration over the fact that none of the environmental groups nominees were selected for the panel.

Judy asked about the response to a letter received by CT DEP from the chairpeople of the Connecticut Trustee Advisory Group (CTAG) which inquired about the possibility of adding organizations not previously invited to join CTAG to the group.

Judy also asked who is coordinating the dock renovation of Lake Zoar? Judy also expressed interest in receiving DEP's comments to DOT on the construction of a new bridge at the Stevenson Dam / Lake Zoar Bridge.

## **Future Meetings:**

The group discussed the upcoming monthly meeting schedule and agreed that the next CT Sub-committee of the CCC will be:

January 8<sup>th</sup> at the Kent Town Hall in Kent CT

## **Additional Meeting Announcements:**

EPA will hold an informational meeting on the 1 2 Mile Cleanup:  
September 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. B location to be announced.

The Peer Review Panel for the Human Health Risk Assessment will be held:  
November 18 - 20<sup>th</sup> at Cranwell Resort in Lenox

## **Other Announcements:**

Judy Herkimer announced that the FERC website has information on the draft report for the hydro-electric dam in CT and that folks could go to the website to submit comments.

Judy also updated the group on the September 24 Human Health Risk Assessment Summit. HRI, HEAL and BEAT put on the summit. The speakers included DeFur, TAG advisor, and David Carpenter from SUNY Albany. The summit was held at the Lee Town Hall and taped for cable. It was attended by a diverse audience, including: representatives from agencies, industry, activists, and boaters. Data was presented from Hudson River. The message delivered by the speakers was that PCBs at any level affect people, the CT reach of the river is contaminated and shouldn't be stocked with fish.

Judy reported that it was a compelling presentation and included a discussion of the inhalation and volatilization of PCBs.

## **Action Items:**

### **EPA:**

- \$ Will distribute panel information and selection process for the ERA.
- \$ Will announce location for the September 30<sup>th</sup> public information meeting on the 12 Mile Reach.

### **CTDEP:**

- \$ Follow up on Judy Herkimer-s request for a copy of CT DEP-s comments to CT DOT regarding the inland wetland and flood management permit applications for the Stevenson Dam bridge as well as follow up on Judy-s request for a timeline for the process.
- \$ Look into whether or not any Housatonic PCB samples were handled by the University of Connecticut (UConn) lab recently investigated for falsifying data.
- \$ Follow up on the response to a letter received by CT DEP from the chairpeople of the Connecticut Trustee Advisory Group (CTAG) which inquired about the possibility of adding organizations not previously invited to join CTAG to the group.